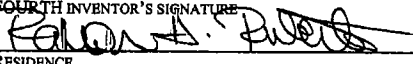



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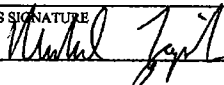
FULL NAME OF FOURTH INVENTOR: Ramon Ruberte A.	
FOURTH INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE 	DATE 03/15/04
RESIDENCE Quincy, Massachusetts	
CITIZENSHIP US	
MAILING ADDRESS 2001 Falls Blvd. APT 346 Quincy, MA 02169	


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Please direct telephone calls to: Lisa J. Michaud at (617) 439-2550

Please direct facsimiles to: Lisa J. Michaud at (617) 310-9550

FULL NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR: <b>Paul Birkmeyer</b>	
FIRST INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE 	DATE <b>March 15, 2004</b>
RESIDENCE <b>Marshfield, Massachusetts</b>	
CITIZENSHIP <b>US</b>	
MAILING ADDRESS <b>154 Partridge Brook Circle Marshfield, Massachusetts 02050</b>	

FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: <b>Michael Zajack</b>	
FIRST INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE 	DATE <b>March 15, 2004</b>
RESIDENCE <b>Marshfield, Massachusetts</b>	
CITIZENSHIP <b>US</b>	
MAILING ADDRESS <b>30 James Way Marshfield, Massachusetts 02050</b>	

FULL NAME OF THIRD INVENTOR: <b>Erasmio Lopez</b>	
FIRST INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE 	DATE <b>March 15, 2004</b>
RESIDENCE <b>Abington, Massachusetts</b>	
CITIZENSHIP <b>MX</b>	
MAILING ADDRESS <b>2 Woodlands Way, #233 Abington, Massachusetts 02351</b>	

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**SPINAL FIXATION ELEMENT AND METHODS**

the specification of which is filed concurrently herewith.

In the event that the filing date and/or Application No. are not entered above at the time I execute this document, and if such information is deemed necessary, I hereby authorize and request my attorneys/agent(s) at Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP, World Trade Center West, 155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604, to insert above the filing date and/or Application No. of said application.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by an amendment, if any, specifically referred to herein.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me that is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint all practitioners at **Customer Number 021125**, all of Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP, World Trade Center West, 155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604, jointly, and each of them severally, my attorneys at law/patent agent(s), with full power of substitution, delegation and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please mail all correspondence to Lisa J. Michaud at **Customer Number 021125**, whose address is:

Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP  
World Trade Center West  
155 Seaport Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604